

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONTACTS BETWEEN INKATHA AND PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY

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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DURBAN PRESS AUGUST 24 REPORTED FORMAL DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD IN ULUNDI BETWEEN CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI AND THE LEADER OF THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY (PFP), COLIN EGLIN. VISIT TO ULUNDI, REPORTEDLY EGLIN'S FIRST, CULMINATED MORE THAN A YEAR OF PREPARATORY CONTACTS IN WHAT BOTH SIDES SOMETIMES REFER TO AS THEIR "ALLIANCE". AT CONCLUSION OF THEIR DISCUSSION, BUTHELEZI AND EGLIN ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT CALLING FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION INVOLVING ALL RACE GROUPS TO SOLVE SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. BOTH EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT CONFLICT CAN BE AVOIDED BY NEGOTIATION PROVIDED IT IS NOT BEGUN TOO LATE, AND CALLED UPON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO ABANDON THE OBJECTIVE OF A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE NO BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS. BUTHELEZI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WANTED, BY HIS MEETING WITH EGLIN, TO IMPRESS ON PEOPLE THAT INKATHA BELIEVED IN A BLACK-WHITE FUTURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA. "THAT BLACK-WHITE FUTURE HAS TO

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START SOMEWHERE AND I SEE TODAY'S MEETING AS ITS BEGINNING," HE SAID.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BACKGROUND: BEGINNING IN LATE 1976, INKATHA AND THE PFP (THEN-PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY) UNDERTOOK A SERIES OF INFORMAL

AND THEN INCREASINGLY FORMAL CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT CREATING WHAT THEY TERM AS "ALLIANCE". HERETOFORE THE TALKS HAVE USUALLY BEEN CONDUCTED AT A LEVEL JUST BELOW THE TOPMOST LEADERSHIP -- I.E., SECRETARY GENERAL SIBUSISO BENGU LEADING THE INKATHA SIDE AND NATIONAL CHAIRMAN RAY SWART THE PFP. INITIAL CONSULTATION WAS DEVOTED TO A MUTUAL SCRUTINY OF EACH OTHER'S POLITICAL/PHILOSOPHICAL PLATFORMS (REFAIR). BUTHELEZI INITIALLY MADE MUCH OF THE VIEW THAT FOR THEIR ALLIANCE TO WORK, BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO BREAK THE LAW AND "GO TO JAIL TOGETHER". THE CHIEF IN THE PAST HAS BEEN KNOWN TO EXPRESS DOUBT TTHAT THE PFP OR ANY WHITE GROUPING WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO FAR ENOUGH TO MAKE THEIR ARRANGEMENTS WORK. THE PFP FOR ITS PART HAD EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN WITH SOME OF INKATHA'S "SEVENTEEN BASIC PRINCIPLES", PARTICULARLY THOSE CALLING FOR A "RADICAL RE-DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH" AND AN ACTIVE STATE ROLE IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS END. THE PFP ALSO WAS NOT PREPARED DELIBERATELY TO BREAK THE LAW, FOLLOWING INSTEAD A POLICY OF STRETCHING LAWS TO THEIR UPPER LIMIT AND GOING TO COURT TO TEST THEM WHEN POSSIBLE. NO CLOSER ALIGNMENT ON THESE ISSUES HAD NMNJLYEPORTED PRIOR TO EGLIN'S VISIT TO ULUNDI. BOTH SIDES MEANWHILE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING THEIR DIALOGUE TO AVOID CLOSING OFF EXISTING AVENUES OF BLACK-WHITE COMMUNICATION.

3. CONGEN DISCUSSED INKATHA-PFP DEVELOPMENTS TODAY WITH RAY SWART ON EVE OF LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR U.S. AS AN IV GRANTEE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWART SAID THE EGLIN/BUTHELEZI TALKS HAD BEEN EXTENSIVE, COVERING THE FULL RANGE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW. AS A RESULT, HE INDICATED, THE PFP WAS MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THE INKATHA POSITION. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BUTHELEZI AND BENGU CLEARLY REJECTED "SOCIALISM" AS THE MODEL FOR A FUTURE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE. HOWEVER, SINCE THE BLACK COMMUNITY COULD NOT EMBRACE CAPITALISM EITHER (A PERCEIVED SOURCE OF MANY OF THEIR GRIEVANCES), THEY HAD WORDED THEIR PRINCIPLE IN A RATHER DELIBERATELY VAGUE WAY. SWART AFFIRMED THAT BUTHELEZI AND BENGU INSISTED THEY DID NOT REJECT MOST COMPONENTS OF A FREE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY, AND REGARDED PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AS A BASIC RIGHT. BENGU REPORTEDLY ALSO INDICATED THAT INKATHA UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR A FORM OF QUALIFIED FRANCHISE, AT LEAST IN THE TRANSITION STAGE OF S.A. BLACK POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. SWART FINALLY INDICATED THAT THE PREVIOUS BUTHELEZI LINE ON "GOING TO JAIL TOGETHER" HAD BEEN FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION: IT HAD NOT RECURRED IN THEIR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS. SWART DESCRIBED BUTHELEZI AS "RELAXED" AFTER HIS U.S. VISIT AND CLEARLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS (IN A BLACK CONTEXT) OF HIS DEALING TOO CLOSELY WITH THE LIBERAL WHITE ESTABLISHMENT. SWART IN FACT OPINED THAT BUTHELEZI SEEMED TO BE IN A POSITION OF

CONSIDERABLE POWER CURRENTLY (I.E., GIVEN THE RECENT INKATHA INITIATIVES IN MONITORING LABOR PRACTICES, ETC.). HE THOUGHT BUTHELEZI WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO "CRACK DOWN" ON HIS OWN LEFT WING, IF THAT SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY.

4. SWART WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON IV ORIENTATION DURING THE PERIOD SEPT 6-13. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH HIM ASPECTS OF THE ABOVE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE PFP OR THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCENE IN GENERAL. FARBER

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